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1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Penny Clarke on April 7, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows: Claims 18-22 are cancelled. Applicant's election of Group I, claims 1-10, 12-13, 15-17 and 23-26 in the reply filed April 25, 2007 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out objections in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicant claims a fan blade comprising a plurality of fiber composite layers; and a plurality of high elongation fiber composite strips joining one of the fiber composite layers at a joint wherein the high elongation fiber composite strips include a first high elongation composite strip oriented in a first direction, a second high elongation fiber composite strip having fibers oriented in a second direction different than that of the first direction and a third high elongation fiber composite strip having fibers oriented in a third direction different from that of the first and second direction.

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The closest prior art, Kuklinski, U.S. Patent Number 5,934,609, teaches a propeller blade fabricated from composite material having a plurality of upper layers having fibers oriented in a first direction and a plurality of lower layers having fibers oriented in a second direction. Kuklinski fails to teach or suggest a third fiber composite strip having fibers oriented in a third direction different from that of the first and second direction.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

CONCLUSION

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Camie S. Thompson whose telephone number is 571-272-1530. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00 am - 6:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, D. Lawrence Tarazano can be reached on 571-272-1515. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/D. Lawrence Tarazano/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1794

Camie S Thompson
Examiner
Art Unit 1794